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## MEDIA RELEASE

### ACHS 2013 Quality Improvement Awards Announced

A project which improves safety, quality and efficiency of care through the development of electronic medical record has been announced a winner of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Quality Improvement Awards, 2013.

Peninsula Health and Austin Health Vic won the **Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety Award** for their development of an electronic medical record project, aimed at automating clinical care activities, including prescribing drug administration, radiology and pathology test ordering and results reviewing: to support clinical care through timely access to patient data, whilst minimising duplication of information collected.

The pioneering work from the two health services in clinical information systems will assist in reducing medication errors, which remain the second most common type of medical incident reported in hospitals.

ACHS Director of Development, Ms Linda O'Connor said Peninsula Health and Austin Health Vic's entry made an important contribution to an area where strong innovation could make a difference.

"This project exemplifies an initiative that is already making an impact by improving quality and safety," she said. "The efficiency of patient care increases when staff are given the means to electronically prescribe, administer drugs, order investigations and review results through improved electronic access and appropriate IT infrastructure," she said.

Monash Health's Dietetics and Central Production Kitchen won the **Non-Clinical Service Delivery Award** for their "*Innovative Improvement to Food Services for Patients with Allergies*" project which sought to improve the identification and non-medical management of paediatric patients at risk of anaphylaxis due to food allergies.

The **Healthcare Measurement Award** was won by the Bathurst Health Service Physiotherapy and Surgical Ward's "*Up and at 'em. A trial of early mobilisation in elective orthopaedic in the rural context*" which for a small outlay significantly decreased patient length of stay, increased patient satisfaction and resulted in savings of more than \$1.4m.

"With a strong number of entries received from around the country and overseas, the ACHS Quality Improvement Awards ensure there is a continued focus on improving quality and safety in health care through stronger innovation in Australia," Ms O'Connor said.

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